



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS



February 2015

## Inside this issue:

Directors Message	1
VT Plumbing Rules	2
Ludlow Fire Investigation	2
Hazmat Notes	3
Generator Safety	4
Calendar of Fire Events	5
Contact Information	6



## Director's Message

The Division of Fire Safety welcomes Trudy Thomas to our team. Trudy is responsible for our licensing programs working out of our central office in Berlin. We are currently recruiting for an electrical inspector position in Williston as Monte Mason accepted employment with a private company after serving the State of Vermont for 18 years.

The State as you're aware is under budgetary constraints and we are looking very closely on how we can continue to deliver our services in the most effective and cost efficient manner. Our budget to date is very tight across all our programs (Fire Academy, Haz-Mat Response, and Fire Safety). Through the process of rescission cuts to our existing FY15 budget (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015) we kept true to our mission of saving lives our highest priority, and we will continue down this path.

In early February, Deputy Director, Joe Benard will be moving forward with the 2015 rule making process adopting the 2015 codes late summer. It has always been customary to include the Vermont Fire Service in these discussions we look forward to the discussions. Joe will be reaching out to stakeholders as we move forward on reviewing the changes to the 2015 code.

The Vermont Fire Academy is looking for Fire Instructors. In order to become a Fire Instructor with the Vermont Fire Academy you must be a certified Firefighter I and have at least 3 years of experience as a certified firefighter with a fire department. Also, the interested firefighter and certified fire instructor must submit a letter of interest in becoming a fire instructor with the Vermont Fire Academy.

### Minimum Qualifications:

- High school diploma or hold an equivalency certificate. (G.E.D.)
- Current certification as a Firefighter I.
- Current certification as Fire Service Instructor I.
- 3 years of experience as a certified Firefighter I
- Current in CPR / First Aid
- Current member in good standing in a local fire department
- Current with Vermont Fire Service Training Council re-certification requirements

Once the letter of interest is received and accepted, the fire instructor candidate will be asked to participate in a panel interview session at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford. After successful completion, the administrative hiring process for the Department of Public Safety will begin. This process includes a background check, including fingerprints and reference checks and can sometimes take up to 6 weeks to complete. Upon successful conclusion of that process, the new Fire Instructor will be hired as an Apprentice Fire Instructor. Current starting pay grade: 18, Step 1: \$16.45 / hr. If you have any questions please contact Jim Litevich at 483-2727.

## 2015 VERMONT PLUMBING RULES UPDATE

The Division of Fire Safety is currently in the process of updating from the 2012 to the 2015 International Plumbing Code. The Division has been through phase one and the 2015 annotated copy of the Vermont Plumbing Rules have been submitted to ICAR with a February 9, 2014 meeting. The second filing will occur once ICAR approves the format of the Plumbing Rules for advertisement in the media for public comment.

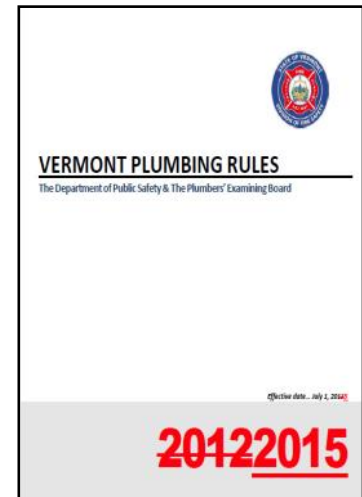


If you want to review and comment on the 2015 proposed rules, you will find them posted on our web site. Be sure to check the media for the cutoff date for submittal of comments.

[www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)

If you want to comment, please forward your comments to Gerald Garrow at [gerald.garrow@state.vt.us](mailto:gerald.garrow@state.vt.us).

Submitted By: Joe Benard, Deputy Director



### *Explosion Damages Motel in Ludlow*

A significant blast damaged the 4 unit Best Western Annex in Ludlow on January 3. Serious injury was avoided as the occupants were not present at the time of the incident.

It appears that an oil-fired water heater located in the basement of this two-story, stone building suffered an over-pressure event that propelled the 50 gallon water heater through the ceiling and onto the first floor. Significant structural damage occurred, and the building is being considered a total loss.

An investigation of this incident was conducted by several Division staff, including Josh Maxham, G J Garrow, Paul Spicer, Landon Wheeler and Matthew Lindhiem to determine what occurred. Evidence indicating that the pressure relief valve serving this water heater had been plugged was found after dogged searching in very adverse conditions.

Pressure relief valves are vital safety devices designed to reduce dangerous pressures in boilers and water heaters. They work very effectively when properly installed and maintained by competent service or maintenance staff.



Submitted By: Bruce Martin, Regional Manager



## Is Your Department Ready?

Your pager goes off and you are called to a vehicle crash with HAZMAT involved, or a report of a strange odor and people sick, or a carbon monoxide detector sounding or an unknown purple liquid running down the street. Are you ready to begin managing this incident safely?

The first step in successful management of HAZMAT events in your community is insuring all first responders have the appropriate level of training. In addition to training all the first responder organizations: fire, police and EMS should meet to establish communications plans, areas of responsibility and to identify areas of concern and perform necessary planning. Planning should also include any other groups that might be affected such as schools, local government and nearby medical facilities.

When the incident occurs the fire department should consider the following:

- ☐ Approach from the upwind upgrade side if possible
- ☐ Has an Incident Command System been established?
- ☐ Is the Command Post in a safe area?
- ☐ Is there an immediate life safety concern?
- ☐ Establish control zones
- ☐ How many victims are there?
- ☐ Is EMS on scene and do we have adequate EMS assets?
- ☐ Is there a need to evacuate or shelter in place
- ☐ Do I need 'emergency' decontamination
- ☐ Can we identify the product?
  - Shipping papers
  - Placards
  - Shape of container
  - Description of product from witnesses or victims
- ☐ Do we need assistance from the State HAZMAT Team -1800-641-5005
- ☐ Is the product moving? Can we contain it?
  - Do we have the training and equipment?
  - Where will it go if we do not stop it?
- ☐ Do I need Town Highway to bring resources?
  - Road blocks
  - Sand
  - Heavy equipment
- ☐ Does electricity need to be cut? (When flammable vapors are present)

It is important to note that if you need assistance from the HAZMAT Team you should use the **HAZMAT Hotline - 1-800-641-5005**. Assistance ranges from a consultation with a Crew Chief to a full team response depending on the need. The HOTLINE is the way to get help in an emergency!

One last reminder: Any spill should be reported through the hotline!

If you have any non-emergency HAZMAT questions or suggestions please contact me.

Christopher Herrick, Chief  
VHMRT  
802-479-7586

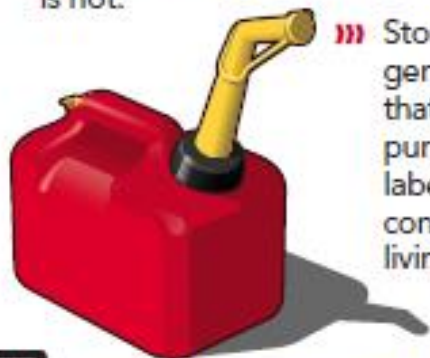






Downed utility lines, power company blackouts, heavy snow falls or summer storms can all lead to power outages. Many people turn to a portable generator for a temporary solution without knowing the risks.

- » Generators should be used in well ventilated locations outside away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- » Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- » Place generators so that exhaust fumes can't enter the home through windows, doors or other openings in the building.
- » Make sure to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home. Follow manufacturer's instructions for correct placement and mounting height.
- » Turn off generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is hot.



- » Store fuel for the generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.

## Just Remember...

When plugging in appliances, make sure they are plugged directly into the generator or a heavy duty outdoor-rated extension cord. The cords should be checked for cuts, tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

If you must connect the generator to the house wiring to power appliances, have a qualified electrician install a properly rated transfer switch in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC) and all applicable state and local electrical codes.

## FACT

- ! CO deaths associated with generators have spiked in recent years as generator sales have risen.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

# Division of Fire Safety

[www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)

## CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

### February 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NATIONAL BURN AWARENESS WEEK						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

#### ~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

Feb 2, 2015 ~ Groundhog Day  
 Feb 12, 2015 ~ Lincoln's Birthday  
 Feb 14, 2015 ~ Valentines' Day  
 Feb 16, 2015 ~ Presidents' Day / State Holiday  
 Feb 18, 2015 ~ Ash Wednesday  
 Feb 22, 2015 ~ Washington's Birthday

Date	Event	Location
3	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
10	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
12	Lincoln's Birthday	ALL
14	Valentines Day	ALL
16	Presidents' Day ~ <b>State Offices Closed</b>	ALL
22	Washington's Birthday	ALL
23	Access Board Meeting	BERLIN



### March 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

#### ~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

Mar 8, 2015 ~ Daylight Savings Begins  
 Mar 17, 2015 ~ St. Patrick's Day  
 Mar 20, 2015 ~ First Day of Spring  
 Mar 29, 2015 ~ Palm Sunday

Date	Event	Location
3	Town Meeting Day ~ <b>State Offices Closed</b>	ALL
10	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
30	Access Board	BERLIN



#### ~BOARD DEADLINE REMINDER~

If you have a board agenda item, it needs to be received at the Central Office no later than 2 weeks prior to the board meeting. (for all boards – Access, Electrical, Elevator & Plumbing)



State of Vermont      Division of Fire Safety

FEBRUARY 2015

1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600

Barre, VT 05641-2351

FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

*To be added to the monthly newsletter email  
mailing list contact the Central Office  
(802) 479-7561*

**REMEMBER .... Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon  
Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

Vermont Department of Public Safety

## ***Division of Fire Safety***

### **Central Office**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 600  
Barre, VT 05641-2351  
Phone (802) 479-7561 Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 640-2106

### **HAZMAT Response Team**

Phone (802) 479-7586  
Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 641-5005

### **Vermont Fire Academy**

93 Davison Drive  
Pittsford, VT 05763  
Phone (802) 483-2755 Fax (802) 483-2464  
Toll Free (800) 615-3473

## **Regional Offices:**

### **Barre**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 500  
Barre, VT 05641-7301  
Phone (802) 479-4434 Fax (802) 479-4446  
Toll Free 1-888-870-7888

### **Springfield**

100 Mineral Street, Suite 307  
Springfield VT 05156-3168  
Phone (802) 885-8883 Fax (802) 885-8885  
Toll Free 1-866-404-8883

### **Rutland**

56 Howe Street, Building A-Suite 200  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone (802) 786-5867 Fax (802) 786-5872  
Toll Free (888) 370-4834

### **Williston**

372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102  
Williston, VT 05495-7151  
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312  
Toll Free (800) 366-8325

## **DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION**

**Waterbury**—103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-2101— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371